

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A voice communications method comprising:
 - a process at ~~the~~ a terminal at which voice is input for generating voice data indicating said voice;
 - a process at ~~the~~ a server for receiving said voice data;
 - a process at said server for sending said voice data to a predetermined terminal;
 - a process at said predetermined terminal for receiving said voice data;
 - a process at the terminal that received said voice data for outputting the voice indicated by said voice data;
 - a process at the terminal that received said voice data for generating a reception result of said voice data;
 - a process at the terminal that ~~sent~~ generated said voice data for receiving said reception result;
 - and
 - a process at the terminal that received said reception result for visually indicating ~~the~~ a reception state of said voice data based on said reception result.
2. (Currently amended) A voice communications method according to claim 1, wherein said process for indicating said reception state indicates said reception state by indicating ~~the~~ an action of ~~the~~ an avatar of ~~the~~ a user of the terminal that received said voice data.

3. (Currently amended) A voice communications method according to claim 1, wherein:
said reception result is an ACK message or a NACK message; and
said process for indicating said reception state indicates that said voice data was correctly received if said ACK message was received within a predetermined period of time after ~~the~~ a transmission of said voice data, and indicates that said voice data was not correctly received if said NACK message was received within said predetermined period of time or if no message was received within said predetermined period of time.
4. (Currently amended) A voice communications method according to claim 1, wherein :
said process for generating said reception result adds ~~the~~ an ID of the terminal that received said voice data to said reception result; and
said process for indicating said reception state indicates said ID along with said reception state.
5. (Currently amended) A voice communications method according to claim 1, wherein
said process for generating said reception result generates said reception result based on ~~the~~ a data form of said voice data.
6. (Currently amended) A voice communications method comprising:
a process at ~~the~~ a terminal at which voice is input for generating utterance data, which is shorter than the voice data indicating said voice and which is data indicating an utterance;
a process at ~~the~~ a server for receiving said utterance data;
a process at said server for sending said utterance data to a predetermined terminal;
a process at said predetermined terminal for receiving said utterance data;

a process at the terminal that received said utterance data for indicating the utterance by the terminal that sent said utterance data;

a process at the terminal that sent said utterance data for generating said voice data;

a process at said server for receiving said voice data;

a process at said server for sending said voice data to said predetermined terminal;

a process at said predetermined terminal for receiving said voice data; and

a process at the terminal that received said voice data for outputting the voice indicated by said voice data.

7. (Currently amended) A voice communications method according to claim 6, wherein said process for indicating said utterance indicates said utterance by indicating ~~the~~ an action of ~~the~~ an avatar of ~~the~~ a user of the terminal that sent said utterance data.

8. (Original) A voice communications method according to claim 6, wherein the server for processing said utterance data and the server for processing said voice data are different.

9. (Currently amended) A voice communications method comprising:

a process at ~~the~~ a server for storing permission or denial for sending data from one optional terminal to another optional terminal;

a process at ~~the~~ a terminal at which voice is input for generating voice data indicating said voice;

a process at said server for receiving said voice data;

a process at said server for sending said voice data to terminal to which data is permitted to be sent from the terminal that sent said voice data;

a process at the terminal to which data is permitted to be sent from the terminal that sent said voice data for receiving said voice data; and

a process at the terminal that received said voice data for outputting the voice indicated by said voice data.

10. (Original) A voice communications method according to claim 9, comprising:

a process at a predetermined terminal for designating permission or denial for sending data from said predetermined terminal to another optional terminal;

wherein said process for storing stores the designation.

11. (Original) A voice communications method according to claim 9, comprising:

a process at a predetermined terminal for designating permission or denial for sending data from one optional terminal to another optional terminal;

wherein said process for storing stores the designation if said designation is within the authorized limits of the predetermined terminal, or discards said designation if said designation is outside the authorized limits of the predetermined terminal.

12. (Original) A voice communications method according to claim 9, comprising:

a process at a predetermined terminal for designating permission or denial for sending data from one optional terminal to another optional terminal; and

a process at said predetermined terminal for sending said designation to said server if the designation is within the authorized limits of said predetermined terminal, and discarding said designation if the designation is outside the authorized limits of said predetermined terminal;

wherein said process for storing stores the designation sent by said predetermined terminal.

13. (Currently amended) A voice communications method comprising:

a process at ~~the~~ a server for storing permission or denial for sending data from one optional terminal to another optional terminal;

a process at ~~the~~ a terminal at which voice is input for generating utterance data, which is shorter than the voice data indicating said voice and which is data indicating an utterance;

a process at said server for receiving said utterance data;

a process at said server for sending said utterance data to a terminal to which data is permitted to be sent from the terminal that sent said utterance data;

a process at the terminal to which data is permitted to be sent from the terminal that sent said utterance data for receiving said utterance data;

a process at the terminal that received said utterance data for indicating the utterance by the terminal that sent said utterance data;

a process at the terminal that sent said utterance data for generating said voice data;

a process at said server for receiving said voice data;

a process at said server for sending said voice data to terminals to which data is permitted to be sent from the terminal that sent said voice data;

a process at the terminal to which data is permitted to be sent from the terminal that sent said voice data for receiving said voice data;

a process at the terminal that received said voice data for outputting the voice indicated by said voice data;

a process at the terminal that received said voice data for generating a reception result of said voice data;

a process at the terminal from which data is permitted to be sent to the terminal that sent said reception result for receiving said reception result; and

a process at the terminal that received said reception result for indicating ~~the~~ a reception state of said voice data based on said reception result.

14. (Currently amended) A voice communications system comprising:

a means at ~~the~~ a terminal at which voice is input for generating voice data indicating said voice;

a means at ~~the~~ a server for receiving said voice data;

a means at said server for sending said voice data to a predetermined terminal;

a means at said predetermined terminal for receiving said voice data;

a means at the terminal that received said voice data for outputting the voice indicated by said voice data;

a means at the terminal that received said voice data for generating a reception result of said voice data;

a means at the terminal that sent generated said voice data for receiving said reception result;

and

a means at the terminal that received said reception result for visually indicating ~~the~~ a reception state of said voice data based on said reception result.

15. (Currently amended) A voice communications system according to claim 14, wherein said means for indicating said reception state indicates said reception state by indicating ~~the~~ an action of ~~the~~ an avatar of ~~the~~ a user of the terminal that received said voice data.

16. (Currently amended) A voice communications system according to claim 14, wherein:
said reception result is an ACK message or a NACK message; and
said means for indicating said reception state indicates that said voice data was correctly received if said ACK message was received within a predetermined period of time after ~~the~~ a transmission of said voice data, and indicates that said voice data was not correctly received if said NACK message was received within said predetermined period of time or if no message was received within said predetermined period of time.

17. (Currently amended) A voice communications system according to claim 14, wherein :
said means for generating said reception result adds ~~the~~ an ID of the terminal that received said voice data to said reception result; and
said means for indicating said reception state indicates said ID along with said reception state.

18. (Currently amended) A voice communications system according to claim 14, wherein said means for generating said reception result generates said reception result based on ~~the~~ a data form of said voice data.

19. (Currently amended) A voice communications system comprising:
a means at ~~the~~ a terminal at which voice is input for generating utterance data, which

is shorter than the voice data indicating said voice and which is data indicating an utterance;

a means at ~~the~~ a server for receiving said utterance data;

a means at said server for sending said utterance data to a predetermined terminal;

a means at said predetermined terminal for receiving said utterance data;

a means at the terminal that received said utterance data for indicating the utterance by the terminal that sent said utterance data;

a means at the terminal that sent said utterance data for generating said voice data; a means at said server for receiving said voice data;

a means at said server for sending said voice data to said predetermined terminal;

a means at said predetermined terminal for receiving said voice data; and

a means at the terminal that received said voice data for outputting the voice indicated by said voice data.

20. (Currently amended) A voice communications system according to claim 19, wherein said means for indicating said utterance indicates said utterance by indicating ~~the~~ an action of ~~the~~ an avatar of ~~the~~ a user of the terminal that sent said utterance data.

21. (Original) A voice communications system according to claim 19, wherein the server for processing said utterance data and the server for processing said voice data are different.

22. (Currently amended) A voice communications system comprising:

a means at ~~the~~ a server for storing permission or denial for sending data from one optional terminal to another optional terminal;

a means at ~~the~~ a terminal at which voice is input for generating voice data indicating said voice;

a means at said server for receiving said voice data;

a means at said server for sending said voice data to terminal to which data is permitted to be sent from the terminal that sent said voice data;

a means at the terminal to which data is permitted to be sent from the terminal that sent said voice data for receiving said voice data; and

a means at the terminal that received said voice data for outputting the voice indicated by said voice data.

23. (Original) A voice communications system according to claim 22, comprising:

a means at a predetermined terminal for designating permission or denial for sending data from said predetermined terminal to another optional terminal;

wherein said means for storing stores the designation.

24. (Original) A voice communications system according to claim 22, comprising:

a means at a predetermined terminal for designating permission or denial for sending data from one optional terminal to another optional terminal;

wherein said means for storing stores the designation if said designation is within the authorized limits of the predetermined terminal, or discards said designation if said designation is outside the authorized limits of the predetermined terminal.

25. (Original) A voice communications system according to claim 22, comprising:

a means at a predetermined terminal for designating permission or denial for sending data from one optional terminal to another optional terminal; and

a means at said predetermined terminal for sending said designation to said server if the designation is within the authorized limits of said predetermined terminal, and discarding said designation if the designation is outside the authorized limits of said predetermined terminal;

wherein said means for storing stores the designation sent by said predetermined terminal.

26. (Currently amended) A voice communications system comprising:

a means at ~~the~~ a server for storing permission or denial for sending data from one optional terminal to another optional terminal;

a means at ~~the~~ a terminal at which voice is input for generating utterance data, which is shorter than the voice data indicating said voice and which is data indicating an utterance;

a means at said server for receiving said utterance data;

a means at said server for sending said utterance data to a terminal to which data is permitted to be sent from the terminal that sent said utterance data;

a means at the terminal to which data is permitted to be sent from the terminal that sent said utterance data for receiving said utterance data,

a means at the terminal that received said utterance data for indicating the utterance by the terminal that sent said utterance data;

a means at the terminal that sent said utterance data for generating said voice data;

a means at said server for receiving said voice data;

a means at said server for sending said voice data to terminals to which data is permitted to be sent from the terminal that sent said voice data;

a means at the terminal to which data is permitted to be sent from the terminal that sent said voice data for receiving said voice data;

a means at the terminal that received said voice data for outputting the voice indicated by said voice data;

a means at the terminal that received said voice data for generating a reception result of said voice data;

a means at the terminal from which data is permitted to be sent to the terminal that sent said reception result for receiving said reception result; and

a means at the terminal that received said reception result for indicating ~~the~~ a reception state of said voice data based on said reception result.

27. (Currently amended) A recording medium for recording programs for causing a computer to function as:

a means at ~~the~~ a terminal at which voice is input for generating voice data indicating said voice;

a means at ~~the~~ a server for receiving said voice data;

a means at said server for sending said voice data to a predetermined terminal;

a means at said predetermined terminal for receiving said voice data;

a means at the terminal that received said voice data for outputting the voice indicated by said voice data;

a means at the terminal that received said voice data for generating a reception result of said voice data;

a means at the terminal that ~~sent~~ generated said voice data for receiving said reception result;

and

a means at the terminal that received said reception result for visually indicating ~~the~~ a reception state of said voice data based on said reception result.

28. (Currently amended) A recording medium according to claim 27, wherein said means for indicating said reception state indicates said reception state by indicating ~~the~~ an action of ~~the~~ an avatar of ~~the~~ a user of the terminal that received said voice data.

29. (Currently amended) A recording medium according to claim 27, wherein:
said reception result is an ACK message or a NACK message; and
said means for indicating said reception state indicates that said voice data was correctly received if said ACK message was received within a predetermined period of time after ~~the~~ a transmission of said voice data, and indicates that said voice data was not correctly received if said NACK message was received within said predetermined period of time or if no message was received within said predetermined period of time.

30. (Currently amended) A recording medium according to claim 27, wherein :
said means for generating said reception result adds ~~the~~ an ID of the terminal that received said voice data to said reception result; and
said means for indicating said reception state indicates said ID along with said reception state.

31. (Currently amended) A recording medium according to claim 27, wherein said means for generating said reception result generates said reception result based on ~~the~~ a data form of said voice data.

32. (Currently amended) A recording medium for recording programs for causing a computer to function as:

- a means at ~~the~~ a terminal at which voice is input for generating utterance data, which is shorter than the voice data indicating said voice and which is data indicating an utterance;

- a means at ~~the~~ a server for receiving said utterance data;

- a means at said server for sending said utterance data to a predetermined terminal;

- a means at said predetermined terminal for receiving said utterance data;

- a means at the terminal that received said utterance data for indicating the utterance by the terminal that sent said utterance data;

- a means at the terminal that sent said utterance data for generating said voice data;

- a means at said server for receiving said voice data;

- a means at said server for sending said voice data to said predetermined terminal;

- a means at said predetermined terminal for receiving said voice data; and

- a means at the terminal that received said voice data for outputting the voice indicated by said voice data.

33. (Currently amended) A recording medium according to claim 32, wherein said means for indicating said utterance indicates said utterance by indicating ~~the~~ an action of ~~the~~ an avatar of ~~the~~ a user of the terminal that sent said utterance data.

34. (Original) A recording medium according to claim 32, wherein the server for processing said utterance data and the server for processing said voice data are different.

35. (Currently amended) A recording medium for recording programs for causing a computer to function as:

a means at ~~the~~ a server for storing permission or denial for sending data from one optional terminal to another optional terminal;

a means at ~~the~~ a terminal at which voice is input for generating voice data indicating said voice;

a means at said server for receiving said voice data;

a means at said server for sending said voice data to terminal to which data is permitted to be sent from the terminal that sent said voice data;

a means at the terminal to which data is permitted to be sent from the terminal that sent said voice data for receiving said voice data; and

a means at the terminal that received said voice data for outputting the voice indicated by said voice data.

36. (Original) A recording medium according to claim 35, comprising:

a means at a predetermined terminal for designating permission or denial for sending data from said predetermined terminal to another optional terminal;

wherein said means for storing stores the designation.

37. (Original) A recording medium according to claim 35, comprising:

a means at a predetermined terminal for designating permission or denial for sending data from one optional terminal to another optional terminal;

wherein said means for storing stores the designation if said designation is within the authorized limits of the predetermined terminal, or discards said designation if said designation is outside the authorized limits of the predetermined terminal.

38. (Original) A recording medium according to claim 35, comprising:

a means at a predetermined terminal for designating permission or denial for sending data from one optional terminal to another optional terminal; and

a means at said predetermined terminal for sending said designation to said server if the designation is within the authorized limits of said predetermined terminal, and discarding said designation if the designation is outside the authorized limits of said predetermined terminal;

wherein said means for storing stores the designation sent by said predetermined terminal.

39. (Currently amended) A recording medium for recording programs for causing a computer to function as:

a means at ~~the~~ a server for storing permission or denial for sending data from one optional terminal to another optional terminal;

a means at ~~the~~ a terminal at which voice is input for generating utterance data, which is shorter than the voice data indicating said voice and which is data indicating an utterance;

a means at said server for receiving said utterance data;

a means at said server for sending said utterance data to a terminal to which data is permitted to be sent from the terminal that sent said utterance data;

a means at the terminal to which data is permitted to be sent from the terminal that sent said utterance data for receiving said utterance data;

a means at the terminal that received said utterance data for indicating the utterance by the terminal that sent said utterance data;

a means at the terminal that sent said utterance data for generating said voice data; a means at said server for receiving said voice data;

a means at said server for sending said voice data to terminals to which data is permitted to be sent from the terminal that sent said voice data;

a means at the terminal to which data is permitted to be sent from the sent said voice data for receiving said voice data;

a means at the terminal that received said voice data for outputting the voice indicated by said voice data;

a means at the terminal that received said voice data for generating a reception result of said voice data;

a means at the terminal from which data is permitted to be sent to the terminal that sent said reception, result for receiving said reception result; and

a means at the terminal that received said reception result for indicating the a reception state of said voice data based on said reception result.